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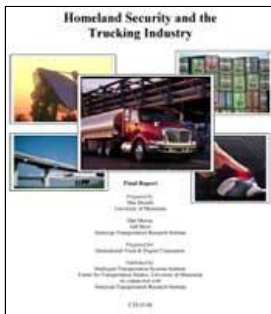
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Plan now to attend the ninth annual Freight and Logistics Symposium

The ninth annual Freight and Logistics Symposium will be held on December 2, 2005, at the Four Points Sheraton Metrodome in Minneapolis. This year's symposium will focus on the economic impacts of freight mobility on the Upper Midwest. The keynote speaker will be **John Ficker**, president of the National Industrial Transportation League. Representatives from the business community, academia, and the public sector will discuss strategies and tactics to meet the growing regional demand for freight transportation capacity. The symposium will also address emerging supply-chain and infrastructure approaches to capacity challenges, the critical role of security in the supply chain, and how logistics costs affect corporate decision making in terms of profitability on continuing operations, plant expansion and relocation decisions, and site selection for greenfield operations.

New U of M report: Homeland Security and the Trucking Industry



Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the trucking industry has been among the transportation sectors receiving increased attention due to concerns about security. The large carrying capacity and high level of access that make trucks invaluable freight haulers also make them potentially dangerous weapons. In response, the trucking industry has stepped up its exploration of new technologies meant to ensure that cargo, drivers, and vehicles comply with security standards.

The University of Minnesota's [Intelligent Transportation Systems \(ITS\) Institute](#) recently collaborated with the [International Truck and Engine Corporation](#) and the [American Transportation Research Institute](#)—the trucking industry's research arm—to evaluate security technologies applicable to commercial vehicle operations. A report synthesizing findings from the research is now available from the ITS Institute.

The report, by **Max Donath**, **Dan Murray**, and **Jeff Short**, documents existing and developing trends in CVO economics and technology investments with an emphasis on onboard systems, and their inter-relationships with security preparedness and issues and implications associated with homeland security imperatives. An in-depth review of smart-card applications, biometric verification systems, and cargo management devices are included. The report is available online at www.cts.umn.edu/publications/reports/reportdetail.pl?id=1015.

Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee spring meeting recap

The Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee (MFAC) met May 20, 2005, for its spring quarterly meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Cecil Selness, director of Mn/DOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations, presented the final Minnesota Statewide Freight Plan. Committee members raised additional issues they felt should be addressed, including CDL training for new/younger drivers, impacts of security measures on international freight shipments, concerns regarding intermodal rail service and costs in Minnesota, and the status of a regional air cargo distribution center. A draft of the final statewide freight plan can be viewed at www.dot.state.mn.us/ofrw/statewide_plan.htm.

Tom Maze of the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) at Iowa State University presented the results and implementation strategy recommendations developed in the research study, "Trucks & Twin Cities Traffic Management," which is sponsored by Mn/DOT. The top five strategies recommended for implementation are: provide design guidance for local governments addressing truck movements on local roads, improve "quick clearance" rules, address truck parking supply needs on the urban fringe, improve advanced signing on arterials for freeway entrances, and expand use and construction of truck-friendly acceleration/deceleration lanes. Mn/DOT's

Research Services Section is developing an implementation plan built around these strategies. For more information on this study, check the Web site at www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/t2summaries/truck_twincities.pdf (PDF, 284 KB).

Bill Gardner, director of Freight Planning and Development at Mn/DOT, presented a preview of the proposed study titled, "Minnesota Plan to Increase Truck Size and Weight." The main purposes of the plan are to: 1) propose increases to heavy truck size and weight laws on state and local roads and bridges; 2) specify requirements for these increases (number of axles, fees, etc.); and 3) develop methods to evaluate impacts on infrastructure, safety, and the economy. The primary goal is to introduce legislation on this topic for the 2006 Minnesota legislative session. Contact Bill Gardner for further information and status of the project at 651-406-4806 or william.gardner@dot.state.mn.us.

Betsy Parker, from Mn/DOT's Office of Government Affairs, presented an update on the status of transportation-related legislation for the 2005 session including a brief outline of the provisions in the transportation bill vetoed by Governor Pawlenty and information on special session processes and possible state government shutdown scenarios.

MFAC is a partnership between government and business to exchange ideas and recommend policy and actions that promote safe, productive, and sustainable freight transportation in Minnesota. MFAC consists of representatives from Minnesota's shipper and carrier communities, as well as a variety of other interested organizations. MFAC provides advice to the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Council regarding freight issues and investments. For more information, contact Bill Gardner, Mn/DOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations at 651-406-4806 or william.gardner@dot.state.mn.us.

FMCSA Comprehensive Safety Analysis 2010 Listening Sessions report

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has released a report that highlights the statements made by attendees in six listening sessions designed to gather input for FMCSA's evaluation of the effectiveness of its current safety compliance and enforcement programs, and to help identify better methods of achieving a crash-free environment. The report organizes comments into the categories of safety community and environment, safety policies and business processes, and safety information. More information is available online at www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety-security/csalisteningsessions.htm.

Commercial Truck and Bus Safety Synthesis Program publications available

The federal [Commercial Truck and Bus Safety Synthesis Program](#) (CTBSSP), sponsored by the [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](#) and administered by the [Transportation Research Board](#), compiles knowledge from sources relating to specific commercial truck and bus safety issues. CTBSSP publications are online at www4.trb.org/trb/crp.nsf/reference/appendices/ctbssp.

Here are recent CTBSSP publications, with summaries from the TRB Web site:

- [Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver Safety Belt Usage](#) (CTBSSP Synthesis 8) identifies and documents motivating factors that influence commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers in deciding whether to wear safety belts and research and practices that address CMV safety belt usage. It also offers a review of ergonomic and human engineering factors in the design and use of safety belts in CMVs as well as approaches to facilitate safety belt use by truck manufacturers.
- [Motorcoach Industry Hours of Service and Fatigue Management Techniques](#) (CTBSSP Synthesis 7) identifies and documents the unique features of the extended workday that typifies motorcoach operations and identifies techniques that motorcoach managers, front-line employees, and drivers use to reduce fatigue-related incidents resulting from the irregular on-duty conditions facing the motorcoach driver. The synthesis also identifies current and emerging technologies that may be appropriate for motorcoach operations to offset the effects of the extended workday and fatigue-inducing environment.

Upcoming FHWA 'Talking Freight' seminars

Upcoming topics and dates for the "Talking Freight" online seminars from the [Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\)](#) are listed here. See the [Talking Freight Web site](#) for further details.

September 7, 2005 SPECIAL SESSION - Freight Provisions of SAFETEA-LU 1:00 pm- 2:30 pm EDT **September 12, 2005** SPECIAL SESSION - Freight Provisions of SAFETEA-LU 1:00 pm- 2:30 pm EDT

September 21, 2005 Freight Capacity Challenges 1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. EDT **October 19, 2005** Freight Security: Effects to Industry 1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. EDT **November 16, 2005** Freight Models: State of the Practice and Needs for Improvement 1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. EDT **December 14, 2005** Considerations of Freight in Disaster Planning 1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. EDT



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